



Crime Watch News

Long Beach Police Department . Crime Prevention Unit . 400 W. Broadway . Long Beach, CA 90802

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Braden Phillips
Bureau Chief
Administration Bureau

Karen Owens
Administrator
Community Relations Division

Paul Sanford
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Crime Prevention Unit
Community Relations Division

COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION MEETING



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH APPRECIATION BBQ

(For Block Captains and Their Neighbors)

Wednesday
June 21, 2006, at 7:00 P.M.

LBPOA Park
7390 East Carson Street, Long Beach
(Behind Lowe's Home Improvement at the Town Center)

BBQ Served at 6:30 p.m.

It's time once again to honor all of our hard-working and dedicated Block Captains at our annual Neighborhood Watch Appreciation BBQ. Please come and enjoy a BBQ on us!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

UPCOMING EVENTS/ VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Upcoming Events &
Volunteer Opportunities 1

Community Oriented
Public Safety (COPS) 2

Community Oriented
Public Safety (COPS) 3

4th of July Planning 3

Community Oriented
Public Safety (COPS) 4

- ◆ Saturday, June 10, 2006, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
[Jonathon Jacques Children's Cancer Center "Champion Run For Life"](#)
Rainbow Harbor, next to the Aquarium of the Pacific
For further information contact: Lilly Rocha (562) 933-8604
- ◆ Saturday and Sunday, June 17-18, 2006, 9:00 a.m.
[Special Olympics Southern California - Sports Expo Park](#)
Cal State University, Long Beach, 1250 Bellflower Blvd.
For further information, Contact Nancy Becker: (562) 843-0957
- ◆ Wednesday, June 21, 2006, 6:00 p.m.
[Neighborhood Watch Appreciation BBQ](#)
Long Beach Police Academy - 7290 East Carson Street, Long Beach
For further information, Contact: PSA Lisa Massacani (562) 570-7229



LBPD

COMMUNITY ORIENTED PUBLIC SAFETY

As policing continues into the 21st century, agencies worldwide plot uncharted courses in their search to provide the enduring core services expected of police organizations: reducing and preventing crime in communities. In this regard, most departments now know the community oriented public safety (COPS) philosophy, a concept that evolved out of the order maintenance theory of the 1980s and community policing concepts of the 1990s. It relies upon partnerships and communication between officers and citizens. However, agencies in large urban areas—where, perhaps, the police force can number 1,500 and the citizens 500,000—find these relationships difficult to cultivate. This problem compounds itself when the city has a high level of police activity that keeps its officers in response mode. Patrol officers in such areas continually address calls for service and detectives handle exorbitantly high case loads.

The City of Long Beach serves as an example. But in spite of the obstacles, its police department, in a quest to better customer service, reduce crime, and improve quality of life, has been successfully integrating the COPS philosophy at all levels of the organization. COPS provides a way for the Long Beach Police Department to maximize resources through partnerships with the community residents and other stakeholders to provide long-term problems solving, sustain neighborhoods, and reduce crime.

CHANGE

A recent survey of Long Beach residents identified what they thought about their police department, how safe they felt in their communities, and what

issues they considered most important. The top six problems, in rank order, were 1) unkempt neighborhoods, 2) drug, 3) graffiti, 4) gangs, 5) shootings, and 6) prostitutions. This ranking illustrates the importance of quality-of-life issues among communities. Further, it delineates the two concepts of being and feeling safe. Consistent with the broken windows theory, citizens reported that an unkempt neighborhood with graffiti, trash strewn throughout the streets, and residents who do not take pride in their homes results in a feeling that illicit activity is afoot. Officers who can galvanize those citizens into action and help them form a community where they police their own quality-of-life issues have a measurable effect on the neighborhood and its crime rate.

Even though for years the Long Beach Department has focused efforts on community policing, these usually involved only a team of officers per patrol division who networked with neighborhood stakeholders and formed important relationships with citizens. As the agency continues to embrace the COPS philosophy, a main focus is institutionalizing its practices at all levels of the organization, as well as the City of Long Beach and the City Prosecutor's Office. By doing so, the department will reap the most benefits possible from line-level ownership of issues and collaborative problem solving among officers, civilian employees, other city departments, the City Prosecutor's Office, citizens, and businesses. The agency is accomplishing its move toward department-wide COPS practices through structural changes, training courses with all employees, and a redirection of command staff focus to support efforts at the line level.

STRUCTURAL REVISIONS

While any organization finds structural changes painful, the Long Beach Police

Department has benefited from its recent modifications. For instance, in recognizing the importance of attacking specific community problems in a multiple approach, the city transferred its Nuisance Abatement Officer from a position in City Hall to one within the Patrol Bureau of the Police Department. Bringing this position into the agency's chain of command affords a quicker response to issues and a better ability to share information with street officers. Another move has involved decentralizing Crime Analysts from the Main Office downtown. Now, they work directly out of Patrol Divisions, helping officers review crime trends in their assigned areas and examine best practices for impacting those areas.

In addition, the Long Beach Code Enforcement and City Prosecutor's Office have undergone organizational restructuring designed to emulate the four geographic police patrol divisions. A team of code enforcement personnel, including code enforcement inspectors, health inspectors, is assigned to each respective patrol division. The city prosecutor's office also has dedicated a deputy city prosecutor to each division. Now, problems, such as absentee landlords, vandalism, and drug sales, are addressed through a team approach.

To address one of the main concerns for Long Beach citizens—graffiti—the department's Gang Enforcement Section has dedicated two detectives to investigate these issues. And, the agency has recently

See "COPS" -- Page 3

COPS - Continue from page 2

purchased computer software to track graffiti throughout the city. This software will provide a better, more efficient way to establish a comprehensive criminal case against vandals engaged in this activity. Further, it will provide the city prosecutor, or district attorney in more serious cases, with the evidence necessary to secure a conviction in these incidents of vandalism.

TRAINING COURSES

The training courses, conducted with all department personnel, not only have involved an explanation of the COPS philosophy but have devoted much time to working with specific tools for problem solving (e.g., crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) and introducing resources available to officers through other city departments and community groups (e.g., agencies with which to coordinate in addressing various quality-of-life issues). Line-level decision making is encouraged and officers are empowered to identify not only problems in their assigned areas but solutions as well.

During training, officers meet and interact with certain key stakeholders in their areas. In this way, communication is fostered and supported between police and the community. Also officers go out into the field to see problem locations firsthand and work together to find and implement possible resolutions.

COMMAND STAFF FOCUS

The department continues to refocus its command staff to be more in alignment with COPS philosophies. Commanders are encouraged to facilitate and support interdepartmental communication and cooperation. They, too, work with their assigned Crime Analyst to understand crime trends and hot-spot areas. And, they meet with citizens to establish an open rapport. What administrators pay attention to, so will the troops. At the senior executive

Continue on page 4

4TH OF JULY PLANNING . . .

During the Fourth of July celebration, the City of Long Beach would like to remind everyone that ALL fireworks, including sparklers are dangerous and illegal within the city limits. Residents and visitors should be aware that firework vendors may set up booths close to Long Beach city limits, however, the booths are actually located in an adjacent city.



ALL FIREWORKS ARE DANGEROUS, ALL FIREWORKS ARE ILLEGAL IN LONG

"Our City ordinance, which was adopted 40 years ago, prohibits the use or possession of all fireworks, even those classified as "Safe and Sane." The Long Beach Police and Fire Departments will be enforcing the ban on ALL fireworks, including sparklers, within the City of Long Beach. If an individual is found using or in possession of any type of fireworks, the person may be arrested and fined \$1,000, sentenced to jail for six months, or both. We ask that people

Every year across the country, people receive serious, often debilitating injuries, because of the use of fireworks. Injuries can result in severe burns, scars and disfigurement that can last a lifetime. On a typical Fourth of July, fireworks cause more fires in the U.S. than all other causes combined. It's for these reasons that ALL fireworks, other than licensed and controlled professional public displays, are illegal within Long Beach.

For many years, people have come to Long Beach beaches to celebrate with friends and family, and have stayed to view the professional fireworks show produced by the Queen Mary. As has been reported, this year the Queen Mary will not host a fireworks display this year. This should not prevent families from finding a proper, safe place to celebrate as there will be more than 50 professionally produced fireworks shows in L.A. County.



make their Fourth of July plans in advance by checking their local newspaper for professional fireworks displays in their community," said Long Beach Police Chief Anthony Batts.

level, deputy chiefs will structure questions at crime statistics meetings so those answering must display knowledge of rising issues and the long-term problem-solving techniques needed to deal with them.

SUCCESS

The Long Beach Police Department has experienced success while using the COPS philosophy. One good example entails an issue with the Halbrite Bridge, which offers a pedestrian connection between Long Beach and a bordering city. Technically, it is governed by three jurisdictions and involves two different school districts, as children from Long Beach cross the bridge to attend classes in another district. Unfortunately, criminals also used it as a thoroughfare between the bordering city and Long Beach. Auto burglaries, graffiti, and noise disturbances represented problems associated with this bridge. Residents of Long Beach wanted it removed.

Patrol officers recognized this problem and took personal ownership of it. They coordinated with bordering municipalities, school districts, and community members. Destruction of the bridge proved a costly solution. Then, officers implemented the CPTED concept. Metal gates were constructed at both ends to block access during certain times of the day and all hours of the night to prevent pedestrian traffic. Residents and school staff agreed to be responsible for the opening and closing of the bridge gates. The communities and schools at both ends are pleased with the results—the crimes and disturbances have substantially decreased.

CONCLUSION

Law enforcement agencies continue to strive toward excellence in their attempt to provide safe, orderly environments for the citizens they serve. In doing so, departments have begun to recognize the importance of involving community stakeholders in this process. The community oriented public safety concept have given the Long Beach Police Department a means to provide improved service to its 500,000 residents. The diverse and multifaceted customer base it serves needs to be part of the process that brings this agency's policing into the 21st century. Creating partnerships between police, other city departments, and citizens is the beginning of the move toward community oriented governance and shared ownership of issues by all those involved in the process. The result can only be a better, safer community in which to live, work, and play.

By Lieutenant Cynthia Renaud and Chief Anthony Batts

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